

Bible Point

JESUS ACCEPTS US.

Key Verse

1 JOHN 4:19 (NLT)

"We love each other because He loved us first."

Bible Story

JESUS BEFRIENDS ZACCHAEUS.

LUKE 19:1-10



Jesus entered Jericho and made His way through town. There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

When Jesus came by, He looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" He said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today."

Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled.

Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"

Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

Discussion

- What did Jesus know about Zacchaeus?
- How did Jesus treat Zacchaeus?
- What did Jesus do to show that He accepted Zacchaeus?
- What did others do to show that they did not accept Zacchaeus?

People can accept us or reject us, even though they only know part of our life story.

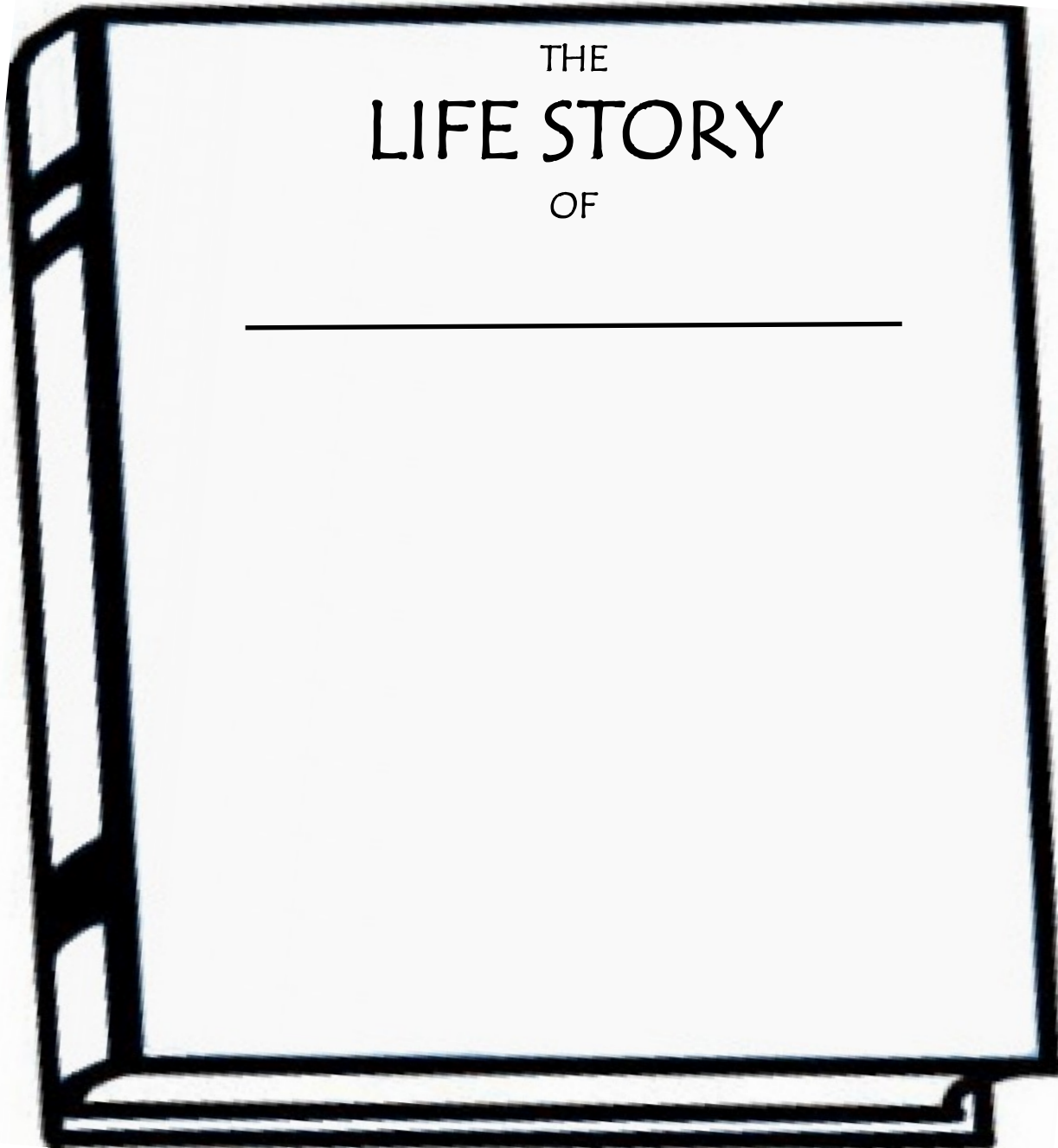
How do you feel knowing that Jesus knows your whole life story and He accepts you?

How can you follow Jesus' example?

Challenges

Pages 3 –4 are activity pages to help reinforce the lesson and scripture – use these as you think about ways to show that you're following Jesus' example!

- Imagine that this page is the cover of the book telling your life story.
- Put your name in the underlined space.
- Personalize the book cover using words or pictures. Think about your interests, hobbies, pets, family, etc.
- *Optional* Send to Ms. Christi or save and bring to church when we are back in session and everyone can share their book covers together!



The Bible tells us that Zacchaeus was short, but we don't know exactly how short he was. When do you wish you were taller? How tall would you like to be?

Today I learned about Zacchaeus and how Jesus accepted him even when others didn't. I can learn from Jesus how to accept others. Here's one person I can accept this week:

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These are things I can do to show that I accept this person as my friend:

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If you wrote the story of your life, what would the title be?



Jesus invited Himself to Zacchaeus' home for dinner. If you could invite yourself to someone's house for dinner, whom would you choose? Why?

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